

Remarks

In response to the final office action dated June 17, 2004, set forth above is an amended set of claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the "determination of the degree" to which a video signal is transmitted to endpoints is selected from (i) the video signal not being transmitted (in which case the video output is dynamically switched off from the endpoint) and (ii) the video signal being transmitted in a reduced bandwidth format (in which case the bandwidth of the video output from the endpoint is reduced).

The Examiner had argued that the step of controlling the video output is taught by O'Neill. In this regard, the Examiner had referred to the broadcasting of a video output to all of the endpoints. It is respectfully submitted that this is not what is meant by the feature of controlling the video output from an endpoint.

The system of O'Neil cannot provide control on the output from the various endpoints. It is only several processing steps later, when the video output from any given endpoint has been transported across the network, received at the MCU, processed through the MCU's network protocol stack and identified as being unwanted video that such a video signal will be discarded or reduced in bandwidth. In other words, each endpoint in O'Neil's videoconference outputs at full bandwidth irrespective of the degree to which its signal is to be used in the conference broadcast. Nothing in O'Neil teaches dynamically switching off the video output from endpoints or reducing their bandwidth at source.

As was pointed out in previous arguments, the claimed invention has the effect of reducing the degree of processing power required at the passively participating endpoints, reducing the

network bandwidth by eliminating signals which are not to be subsequently reused by the MCU, and reducing processing power within the MCU, in particular within the IP or network stack.

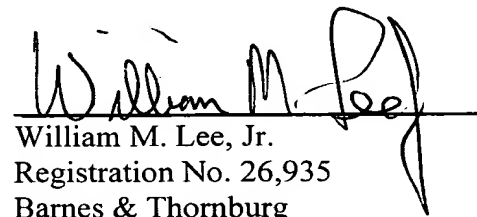
Given that O'Neil neither teaches nor suggest a dynamic control of the type specified in Claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the patentability of Claim 1 should be recognized.

Similar amendments have been made to the remaining independent claims. It is submitted that those claims are allowable, as well. The remaining claims depend from the independent claims, and are believed to be similarly allowable.

Further, favorable reconsideration by the Examiner is urged.

August 16, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William M. Lee, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

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